

Understanding the Difference...

Topic:	Main Idea:	Theme:
<p><u>What does TOPIC mean?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The subject of the story 	<p><u>What does MAIN IDEA mean?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few words on what the story is about (not as detailed as paraphrasing/retelling) 	<p><u>What does THEME mean?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The central meaning or purpose to the story A generalization about life
<p><u>Literary Example:</u> (Based on: Cinderella)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A slave girl/ princess</p>	<p><u>Literary Example:</u> (Based on: Cinderella)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Slave girl turns into a princess through magic.</p>	<p><u>Literary Example:</u> (Based on: Cinderella)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kindness Perseverance Never giving up hope</p>
<p><u>Informational Example:</u> (Based on: Water, Water, Everywhere)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Water Cycle</p>	<p><u>Informational Example:</u> (Based on: Water, Water, Everywhere)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">How the water cycle works</p>	<p><u>Informational Example:</u> (Based on: Water, Water, Everywhere)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather</p>
<p><u>Questions from TASK CARDS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What topic is covered in the article? What information does the author use to support the main topic of this article? Explain the topic of this passage. 	<p><u>Questions from TASK CARDS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the MAIN IDEA of this story/passage/article? What is the most important lesson ____ learns in the story/passage? Why do you think this story/article has the title “_____”? What would be another good title for this story? Which sentence best tells what the passage is about? What is the essential message in the story/article? Which sentence from the article tells the author’s main message? 	<p><u>Questions from TASK CARDS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is a positive result of _____ in the passage? What is the best lesson that can be learned from this passage? What is the theme of this passage?